

stop the river in such a manner as to be impassable to shipping in the Spring. We could also have built other forts on the Jersey side of the river which would considerably aid and assist the forts we already have, but alas! we must no longer think of holds and fortresses on the North River. c. s. c.

There are, I hear, various opinions respecting the taking fort Washington, some think that it was too easily surrendered, others say our men behaved well and that it could not possibly be help'd. I have not been where I wou'd hear anything respecting the order of our men at that place the only intelligence I have is in a letter from an officer of our corps. he tells me that the greatest part of our men engaged the Enemy one mile at least from the fort, at the stockade or rear line (described in my last to you) that while they were engaged there a considerable body of the Enemy passed over the Spiten devil or Harlaem Creek and by a quick movement possess'd themselves of all the passes, between our men at the lines and the fort; the consequence was that they surrender'd immediately. there were I make no doubt other movements of the Enemy, to the Northward of the fort as per newspapers; but he mentions to me nothing more.—It seems the Garrison consisted of upwards of 2000 men, I am surprised then that they would leave the fort at any rate. It appears to me to have been rashness to have left it at such a distance as they did. It required little foresight to know, that as Gen^l Howe had his whole armament at hand, he would make a vigorous effort, if any at all; and as he was furnish'd with conveniencies for passing Harlaem Creek, was it to be thought that he would confine his attack to one place? However I am undertaking to judge perhaps without having the truth of things. this I think very certain, that it would have taken 5000 instead of 2000 men to have defended against Gen^l Howe's Army, the lines which it is said our men attempted to defend.

I am now on my way to Camp, where I shall find it God knows; if any thing worth your notice comes within my observation I shall write you with pleasure.

I had the pleasure of seeing two of the Honble Commis^{rs} from this Province, at philadelphia, Mess^{rs} Hanson and Chamberlaine; but as I had made a resolution before I saw them not to engage again in the service I had little conversation with them on the subject of appointments. I thank you kindly Sir for the favorable opinion you have of me, express'd in your last, I wish it may ever be more in my power than it now is to confirm it.

I am, honb^{le} Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

W^m Harrison.